



Creating a Home Learning Nook

Set your child up for success by creating a comfortable space for homework or virtual learning.

Arrange the space to create privacy and minimize distractions.

- Try a corner or a spot near a wall or partition if you don't have a spare room that works.
- Look for areas with the least noise and "foot traffic."
- Arrange seating so the camera in your child's computer or tablet points at a simple background instead of the middle of the room.
- These tips make it easy for family members to move through the room without joining the class or distracting your child.



Think about lighting and sound.

- Make sure the work area is well lit.
- To avoid shadows, avoid having the major light source behind or directly above your child.
- Make sure the microphone works and the speaker volume is loud enough but not too loud.

Consider personalization and portability.

- If the learning nook needs to be portable or shared with another child, you might set up a trifold poster board on a table or desk.
- Let the child choose or make a small desktop caddy or organizer to store small items.
- Encourage the child to add personal touches.
- These tips will make a personalized space that's easy to move when the family needs the space for something else.



Photo credit: Angelina Harper, Facebook



Keep backgrounds simple but interesting.

- Your child might want to add something to create interest in the background.
- This could be something simple they can change easily for variety, or that connects to a personal interest or theme.
- Another option might be a virtual background provided through the learning platform software. Some can be customized!



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Provide a work surface big enough to hold devices and supplies for studying, taking notes and doing other activities.

- Give students enough space to have all materials and supplies in easy reach — things like daily schedules, notebooks, headphones and art supplies.
- If the space will have other uses, stash the supplies in a box or bin so they're easy to move and will stay together.
- These tips reduce stress for everyone. Try different things and see works best for your family and your child.



Support learning beyond program hours.

- During meals or family gatherings, ask your child to show off progress on an activity or tell about the most interesting project they worked on recently.
- Read together. It could be a picture book, a street sign or the labels on a can.
- If you speak a language other than English at home, that's great! Reading and talking in both languages helps your child's literacy.
- Do math together: The kitchen and the garage are good places to use measuring tools and learn fractions.
- When families engage in the learning process, students become more engaged.



You're helping your child create a bright future!

Every minute you spend talking with your child, laughing together, sharing stories, doing fun activities, and working together in the kitchen or yard is golden. Creating a good space for homework and virtual learning is worth the effort, too. You know what they say: Sometimes it's the "little things" that make a big difference!